

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required between Invention I, claims 1-16 drawn to a method of preparing a sample chip and observing its wall surface; and Invention II, claims 17-35 drawn to systems of preparing a sample chip and observing its wall surface. The Examiner stated that the two inventions are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the two inventions for further prosecution in this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected Invention I drawn to a method of preparing a sample chip and observing its wall surface, and submit that claims 1-16 are readable on the elected invention. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or applicants' decision to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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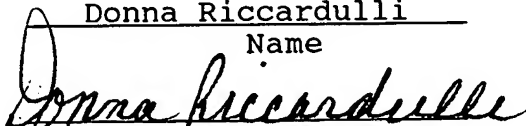
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OCTOBER 17, 2005

Date